Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EUR-12 OMB-01 /087 W

R 080604Z OCT 75 FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9711 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL DAR ES SALAAM 4587

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, TZ, RQ, UN

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH NYERERE: PUERTO RICO

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 4583

1. IN COURSE OF OCTOBER 4 FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT NYERERE, I RAISED QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO, NOTING THAT THIS WAS AN ISSUE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO US, AND THAT WE BELIEVED THAT PUERTO RICO HAD EXERCISED, AND WAS STILL EXERCISING, ITS RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. I DID SO IN CONTEXT OF ARGUMENT THAT US IS SERIOUSLY REVIEWING MANY OF ITS POSITIONS AT THE UN, AS EVIDENCED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH AT THE UNGA (I LEFT A COPY WITH HIM WHEN I DEPARTED). WE WERE SEEKING TO MOVE FROM CONFRONTATION TO CONCILIATION AND WE HOPED THAT OTHER NATIONS WOULD DO SO TOO.

2. NYERERE DID NOT RESPOND IMMEDIATELY, BUT ALTER ON RAISED PUERTO RICO HIMSELF, NOTING THAT QTE I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I KNOW ABOUT THE QUESTION UNQTE. HE THEN TURNED TO THE LANGUAGE OF OUR INSTRUCTIONS AS COMMUNICATED TO TANGOV ON THE SUBJECT, AND READ OFF A NUMBER OF PHRASES WHICH HE HAD JOTTED DOWN ON A SLIP OF PAPER. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT LIKE THIS KIND OF LANGUAGE AND THAT TANZANIA WOULD CONTINUE TO VOTE ON THE ISSUES, SOMETIMES WITH THE US AND SOMETIMES WITH THE USSR. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT PUERTO RICO IS CONSIDERED VITAL ISSUE BY USG, WHICH MUST CONFIDENTIAL

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DECIDE FOR ITSELF WHAT IS VITAL TO IT. AFTER ALL, SOME THINGS

ARE ALSO VITAL TO TANZANIA. HE WENT ON TO GIVE LONG HOMILY ON THE NECESSITY OF ARGUING PROBLEMS RATIONALLY RATHER THAN SHOUTING, ILLUSTRATED WITH ANECDOTES. I HEARTILY AGREED.

3. COMMENT: NYERERE'S ADMISSION THAT PUERTO RICO IS VITAL ISSUE TO US MAY REPRESENT SOME SOFTENING IN TANGOV STAND. AS WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO DO A STUDY ON THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: TERRITORIAL REVERSION, ARMISTICE, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 08 OCT 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DARES04587

Document Number: 1975DARES04587 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750349-0202 From: DAR ES SALAAM Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751071/aaaaclfu.tel Line Count: 70 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION AF Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 75 DAR ES SALAAM 4583 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: izenbei0

Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: Review Date: 02 JUL 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review

06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CONVERSATION WITH NYERERE: PUERTO RICO TAGS: PFOR, US, TZ, KS, UN, (NYERERE, JULIUS K)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006